



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Man Arraigned on New Charges of Scamming the Elderly, Attempting to Bribe Police Officers**

A man pleaded not guilty today to numerous charges that he scammed a dozen elderly motorists by falsely claiming they had been involved in traffic collisions and then demanding money, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

David Stevens, 43, is now facing 22 counts in felony information LA076682, including first-degree residential burglary with a person present, grand theft from an elder, extortion and attempting to bribe an executive officer.

Stevens was held to answer to the new charges last month by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor. He made his appearance today in a Van Nuys courtroom and is scheduled to return Aug. 28 for a pre-trial hearing. Bail was set at \$1 million.

Deputy District Attorney John Pomeroy of the Elder Abuse Section said Stevens is accused of approaching elderly motorists driving alone and telling them they had been in a traffic collision. Stevens then pressured the victims to shell out money for alleged vehicle damage or personal injuries caused by the accident, the prosecutor added.

The incidents occurred in the San Fernando Valley, Hollywood, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles.

After his arrest Stevens complained about his health and was taken to a hospital for observation. While there he offered to pay off two police officers if they would give him time to escape, Pomeroy said.

Stevens was originally charged with duping an 85-year-old motorist in the same scam. Subsequent investigation revealed additional victims who were added to the original complaint. The victims range in age from 62 to 92 years old.

If convicted as charged, Stevens faces 18 years, eight months in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.